

method known in the art. As illustrated, bottom wall 38 can define a circular opening corresponding to the cylindrical reflector of the light fixture so that light fixture 20 can distribute light therethrough. In some embodiments, as shown in Figures 1-3, a decorative flange 48 (148 in Fig. 3) can also be inserted into the opening of bottom wall 38 (138b in Fig. 3) to attach to light fixture 20 (120 in Fig. 3) and improve the aesthetics of the fire assembly.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 20, 22 through 24, 27 through 34, 38 and 39.

Please amend claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 26, 35 through 37 and 40 to read as appearing below (see Appendix C for marked changes). Please also add new claims 42 through 67. Please note that claim 1 has been replaced with claim 42, claim 20 has been replaced with claim 52 and claim 34 has been replaced with claim 61. For the Examiner's convenience, the following are all of the currently pending claims.

~~42.~~ (new claim) A fire assembly comprising:

a recessed light fixture capable of distributing light; and

a housing substantially enclosing said recessed light fixture

such that said housing and said recessed light fixture form a preassembled integral unit adapted for installation behind a surface opening defined by a surface of an adjacent structure, said housing comprising at least one generally fire-resistant material, said housing enclosing said recessed light fixture in a manner such that said housing is configured to form a continuous surface with said surface of said adjacent structure.

2. (amended) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~42~~, wherein said adjacent structure comprises a floor-ceiling assembly, said floor-ceiling assembly having a fire

rating, and wherein said housing is capable of substantially maintaining said fire rating after said fire assembly is installed.

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3. (amended) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~42~~¹, wherein said housing comprises a cube-shaped box, said cube-shaped box comprising a plurality of generally fire-resistant walls.

4. A fire assembly as defined in claim 3, wherein said cube-shaped box further comprises a bottom wall, said bottom wall defining a bottom wall opening such that said bottom wall opening substantially corresponds to said surface opening when positioned thereabove.

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5. (amended) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~42~~¹, wherein said at least one generally fire resistant material is selected from the group consisting of dry wall, plaster, and combinations thereof.

6. (amended) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~42~~¹, wherein said housing further comprises a support structure, said support structure comprising an aluminum housing.

7. A fire assembly as defined in claim 3, wherein at least one of said generally fire resistant walls comprises more than one layer.

8. A fire assembly as defined in claim 7, wherein at least one of said layers comprises aluminum.

9. A fire assembly as defined in claim 7, wherein at least one of said layers comprises dry wall.

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10. (amended) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~42~~¹, further comprising a support structure, said support structure being connected to said housing and said

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recessed light fixture such that said housing, said recessed light fixture, and said support structure form said integral unit.

11. A fire assembly as defined in claim 10, wherein said support structure is mechanically affixed to said housing and said recessed light fixture.

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12. (amended) A fire assembly as defined in claim 12, further comprising a junction box, said junction box being placed in electrical communication with said lamp of said recessed lighting fixture.

13. A fire assembly as defined in claim 12, further comprising at least one conduit extending from said junction box, said at least one conduit being capable of electrically coupling said recessed light fixture to at least one other light fixture.

14. A fire assembly as defined in claim 13, wherein said junction box is contained within said housing, said at least one conduit extending from said junction box through a hole defined by a wall of said housing such that said at least one conduit is capable of electrically coupling said recessed light fixture to at least one other light fixture.

15. A fire assembly as defined in claim 4, wherein said bottom wall comprises a portion extending beyond the intersection of said bottom wall and one of said plurality of side walls, said portion having an upper and lower surface and wherein said junction box is positioned on said upper surface of said portion.

16. A fire assembly as defined in claim 4, wherein a gasket is positioned between said bottom wall and said structural surface, said gasket comprising a gasket opening corresponding to said bottom wall opening and said surface opening.

17. A fire assembly as defined in claim 3, wherein one of said plurality of generally fire-resistant walls includes a door.

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18. (amended) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~42~~¹, further comprising an attachment structure connected to said fire assembly, said attachment structure being configured to attach said fire assembly to said floor-ceiling assembly.

19. A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~18~~, wherein said attachment structure comprises a bar hanger.

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~~43~~. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim 10, wherein said support structure defines an interior surface facing said light fixture and an exterior surface, said housing only being located adjacent said exterior surface.

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~~44~~. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~43~~²⁰, wherein said support structure comprises a frame assembly.

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~~45~~. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~43~~²⁰, wherein said support structure comprises an enclosed metal housing.

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~~46~~. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~42~~¹, wherein said housing comprises a plurality of fire-resistant walls attached together, said fire-resistant walls comprising a dry wall material.

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~~47~~. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~43~~²⁰, wherein said housing comprises a plurality of fire-resistant walls attached together, said fire-resistant walls comprising a drywall material.

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~~48~~. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~46~~²³, wherein said drywall material comprises sheet rock.

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~~49~~. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~47~~²⁴, wherein said drywall

material comprises sheet rock.

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~~50.~~ (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ²³~~46~~, wherein said drywall material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of an asbestos cement sheet, plasterboard, or a laminated plastic.

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~~51.~~ (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ²⁴~~47~~, wherein said drywall material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of an asbestos cement sheet, plasterboard, or a laminated plastic.

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~~52.~~ (new claim) A fire assembly comprising:

- a recessed light fixture comprising a lamp capable of distributing light;
- a support structure surrounding said recessed light fixture, said support structure defining an interior surface facing said light fixture and an exterior surface; and
- a fire-resistant housing surrounding said support structure, said fire-resistant housing being positioned adjacent said exterior surface of said support structure, said recessed light fixture, said support structure and said fire-resistant housing comprising a preassembled integral unit adapted for installation behind a surface opening defined by a surface of an adjacent structure, said fire-resistant housing comprising a plurality of fire-resistant walls, said fire-resistant housing enclosing said light fixture in a manner such that said housing is configured to form a continuous surface with said surface of said adjacent structure.

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~~21.~~ (amended) A fire assembly as defined in claim ²⁹~~52~~, wherein said generally fire-resistant housing further comprises a bottom wall, said bottom wall defining a bottom wall opening such that said bottom wall opening substantially corresponds to said surface opening when positioned thereabove.

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~~31~~ 25. (amended) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~52~~²⁹, further comprising at least one conduit extending from a junction box through a hole defined by one of said walls of said fire-resistant housing, said at least one conduit being capable of electrically coupling said recessed light fixture to at least one other light fixture.

~~32~~ 26. (amended) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~52~~²⁹, wherein one of said plurality of walls includes a door.

~~33~~ 53. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~52~~²⁹, wherein said fire-resistant housing is only located adjacent said exterior surface of said support structure.

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~~34~~ 54. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~52~~²⁹, wherein said support structure comprises a frame assembly.

~~35~~ 55. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~52~~²⁹, wherein said support structure comprises an enclosed metal housing.

~~36~~ 56. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~52~~²⁹, wherein said fire-resistant walls comprise a drywall material.

~~37~~ 57. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~56~~³⁶, wherein said drywall material comprises sheet rock.

~~38~~ 58. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~56~~³⁶, wherein said drywall material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of an asbestos cement sheet, plasterboard, and a laminated plastic.

~~39~~ 59. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~58~~³⁸, wherein said fire-resistant housing comprises a plurality of side walls and a top wall attached together.

~~40~~ 60. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~58~~³⁶, wherein said side walls and said top wall are made from sheet rock.

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(new claim) A fire assembly adapted to enclose a light fixture comprising:
a support structure adapted to be attached to a light fixture, said support structure defining an interior surface and an exterior surface; and
a fire resistant housing attached to said support structure, said fire resistant housing being positioned only adjacent the exterior surface of said support structure, said fire resistant housing comprising a plurality of fire-resistant walls, said fire-resistant housing defining an opening having a shape configured to receive a light fixture therein, said fire-resistant housing being configured to mate with a corresponding surface opening defined by a surface of an adjacent structure to form a continuous surface with said surface of said adjacent structure.

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(amended claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~61~~, wherein said fire-resistant housing is made from a material selected from the group consisting of drywall, plaster and combinations thereof.

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(amended claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~61~~ wherein said enclosed housing is in the shape of a box.

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(amended claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~61~~, wherein said enclosed housing has a cylindrical shape.

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(amended claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~61~~, further comprising an attachment structure connected to said enclosed housing, said attachment structure being configured to attach said enclosed housing to said floor-ceiling assembly.

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A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~40~~, wherein said attachment structure comprises a bar hanger.

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(new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim ~~61~~, wherein said plurality of

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fire-resistant walls are made from sheet rock.

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63. (new claim) A fire assembly as defined in claim 61, wherein said housing includes a plurality of side walls and a top wall attached together.

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64. (new claim) A method for installing a fire assembly into an adjacent structure comprising:

preassembling an integral unit to form a fire assembly, said integral unit comprising,

(a) a recessed light fixture comprising a lamp capable of distributing light;

(b) a support structure surrounding said recessed light fixture, said support structure defining an interior surface facing said light fixture and an exterior surface; and

(c) a fire-resistant housing surrounding said support structure, said fire-resistant housing being positioned adjacent said exterior surface of said support structure, said fire-resistant housing comprising a plurality of fire-resistant walls; and

installing said integral unit behind a surface opening defined by a surface of an adjacent structure, said fire-resistant housing forming a continuous surface with said surface of said adjacent structure.

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65. (new claim) A method as defined in claim 64, wherein said fire-resistant housing is only located adjacent said exterior surface of said support structure.

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66. (new claim) A method as defined in claim 64, wherein said fire-resistant walls comprise a drywall material.

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67. (new claim) A method as defined in claim 66, wherein said drywall material